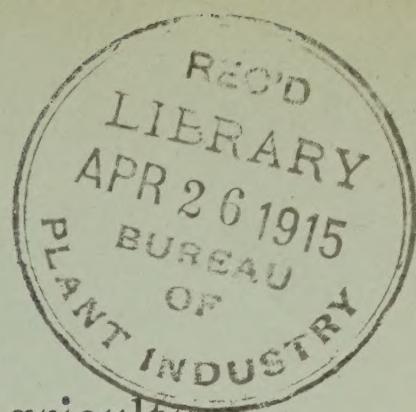


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F. C. I.—13.



United States Department of Agriculture,

BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY,

Forage-Crop Investigations,

WASHINGTON, D. C.

SCOTCH BROOM (*Cytisus scoparius*).

Scotch broom is a perennial evergreen shrub, or bush, which has been tried in a preliminary way as a browsing plant in pastures. It is usually grown as an ornamental, succeeding well in hedges or in isolated groups. It has proved adapted to the sandy soils of both seacoasts, where it is used to some extent as a sand-binding plant. It has an abundance of fine green stems, which give the plant a green aspect throughout the entire winter, and the abundance of yellow flowers adds to its value as an ornamental plant. It has never been used to any great extent as a forage plant, owing to its somewhat distasteful flavor. It is probable, however, that animals can be made to overcome the natural dislike which they have for the plant. The seed of Scotch broom frequently fails to germinate, owing apparently to the hard seed coat. If only a small quantity of the seed is sown, it can be scratched by rubbing it between two pieces of sand-paper. When once the glossy seed coat is scratched, the moisture is able to enter and render the germination much more prompt. Inoculated soil from well-inoculated Scotch-broom plants is usually not readily available in this country, but pure cultures may usually be obtained free upon application to the United States Department of Agriculture. This plant is still in the experimental stage, and trials with it should be undertaken on only a small scale at first.

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